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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Peasant Resistance in Bialystok Voivodship	DATE DISTR.	29 July 1954
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1. The peasants living in the districts of Wysokie Mazowiecki and Bielsk Podlaski, in Bialystok Voivodship, are known to actively oppose the Communists and kolkhozes; the farmers in these areas, therefore, receive very little state aid. For example, chemical fertilizers, ploughs, harrows, and other agricultural equipment are withheld from these farmers, while the state continues to increase their production norms and their taxes. Notwithstanding this action on the part of the state, the peasants continue to resist, and many of them have been arrested and imprisoned for months. The Bialystok district area had, even before the war, a reputation for opposition. On several occasions in recent times, the NKVD, and later the UB (Security Police) were sent to the area in order to "pacify" the peasants.
2. Some time prior to March 1954 the state dispatched the Bialystok KBW (Internal Security Corps) regiment and several KBW units from Olsztyn (Allenstein) and Lublin into the villages in the Bialystok district to seek out bandits. Contingents of KBW troops have remained in some of the villages, for example, in Laszki, Ryboly, Ploski, Kadlubowka, Kolnica, Bujenka, Knorydy, Plewki, Chorzele and Wyszki, but no results have been achieved because the peasants in these villages refuse to fraternize or talk with the soldiers.
3. There is a great scarcity of cattle fodder in the Bialystok voivodship; the husbandry in the PGRs (state farms) is deplorable, and many cattle are starving. In order to save the animals from starvation, the PGRs delivered a portion of their herds to the state slaughter houses. According to the norms, the slaughtered cattle should have yielded at least 400 kilograms of beef apiece, whereas actually the amount was only between 150 and 160 kilograms. The cattle delivered by the peasants to state slaughter houses are not up to weight either, and yield only between 250 to 300 kilograms of beef.
4. Private farmers still have some reserve fodder but the PGRs have already exhausted their reserves, and unless the state supplies fodder there will not be many cattle left on the State farms by the autumn of 1954. According to informant, the private

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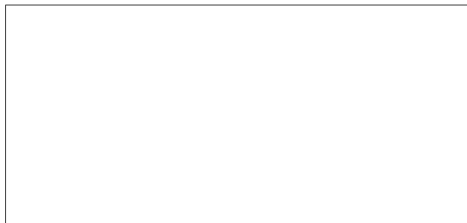


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- 2 -

farmers fulfill their norms to the state as regards the number of cattle but not their weight norms. The State farms, on the other hand, meet neither the weight nor the number norms. Informant states that the farmers deliver their under-weight animals to the state and reserve the well-fed cattle for private sale. The farmers, it is alleged, by bribing the butchers in the slaughter houses, manage to dispose of their cattle at prices three times that which the state pays.

5. Because of the large scale corruption which exists within the managements of the state farms, the peasants are convinced that the PGRs can never compete with private farmers, and for this reason they continue to oppose resolutely the establishment of State farms.



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